

PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

DECLARATION
OF THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

On the 22nd of October, 1962, the President of the United States of America made a statement in which he announced that he had given orders to the armed forces of the USA to halt all ships bound for Cuba, to search them, to turn back those carrying cargo described by American authorities as "offensive" weapons and to extend this measure arbitrarily to affect also other types of cargo and carriers. By resorting to those measures, the United States have in fact imposed a blockade on Cuba.

At the same time, the President of the United States ordered continued and increased close surveillance of Cuba and also gave orders for the despatch of considerable reinforcements of military units to the American military base of Guantanamo in Cuba. U.S. armed forces are being alerted also outside the territory of the United States.

These acts of the United States, accompanied by a torrent of irresponsible hysterical attacks, a deliberate stepping-up of warlike psychosis and carefully pre-meditated military provocations, have justly aroused the indignation of the widest sections of the world public opinion. They constitute an unprecedented interference in matters within the exclusive internal competence of this free Latin American country, a criminal attempt at a reversal of the social development in Cuba, and are directed against all peace-loving nations, against peace in the entire world.

The imperialism of the United States has since the very beginning adopted an extremely hostile attitude against Revolutionary Cuba whose people has got rid of the domination of American monopolies and their Batista-type puppets. By all means at its disposal, the American imperialism was trying to strangle Cuba economically in the hope that a threat of starvation will bring the people of Cuba down

to its knees. Indeed, it was not for the first time that the United States of America hoped to achieve similar results through economic blockade and a policy of gross pressure. But just as the attempt to blockade economically the Socialist countries proved completely ineffectual, so the attempts of the USA at an economic blockade of Cuba equally ended in bankrupt.

At the same time, American imperialism endeavoured to achieve a political and diplomatic isolation of Cuba. The United States severed diplomatic relations with Cuba and devoted no small effort to bringing particularly the Latin American countries into the anti-Cuban front. However, neither the grossest extortion nor pressure have brought the expected result to the American imperialists.

The United States did not even shrink from engineering in April 1961 a treacherous invasion of Cuba by mercenaries which the United States had armed, trained and shipped to Cuba.

One would have expected that the American imperialists learned a lesson from the inglorious end at Playa Girón. However, the present measures for the blockade of Cuba testify to the contrary. The American imperialism is again preparing to raise an armed fist against the people of Cuba and in pursuing its ends does not hesitate to throw the world on the brink of a war catastrophe.

The blockade from the United States is an overt aggressive action, and is even admitted and characterized by the United States itself as a forcible measure. In such a way, the United States has committed a most flagrant violation of the very fundamental principle of contemporary international law - the prohibition of aggression.

International law and the United Nations Charter oblige members to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations. The United States of America not only has used and is using its force against Cuba in order to induce it to change the course of its development, but is even using threat of force against the Soviet Union which is offering selfless assistance to Cuba in the effort of Cuba to build the country and safeguard its defence against enemy forces.

By declaring blockade against Cuba, the United States has grossly and wilfully encroached upon the freedom of the high seas, which is safeguarded under international law. The high sea is open to all nations and, by the concurrent will of all States, it has been exempted from the jurisdiction of any individual State. An attack against the freedom of the high sea constitutes an attack on the rights and legitimate interests of all States. On the high seas, all States enjoy absolute freedom and equality in navigation, commerce, communications and scientific research and no State or group of States may claim sovereignty over a part of the high sea or interfere with its free and full use by other States.

No sovereign State can allow ships sailing under its flag to be halted and searched by another State and impeded in the pursuit of their course. Usurpation of such a right by the United States can, therefore only lead to unpredictable international conflicts. The declaration of a naval blockade and the decision of the Government of the United States to search cargoes carried by ships of third States bound for Cuba constitutes open interference into the internal affairs of those third States.

The imposition of blockade on Cuba is the grossest cynical mockery of all principles of humanity to which the United States likes to pay Pharisaic lip-service: it is a measure devised to plunge the Cuban people back into the serfdom of American monopolies and to frighten all nations trying to complete the liquidation of colonialism and secure free and independent life. At the same time, this act of piracy is a dangerous blow to world peace and an overt preparation for the unleashing of a general conflict which the American imperialism expects to stop the course of history.

The militarist circles in the US should at last face the actual facts of present-day world. Irrevocably past are the times when the American imperialists, depending on their military power, were free to dictate their arbitrary will to freedomloving nations. As a result of a new situation and changed balance of power in the world, they have lost their military supremacy. Today the most powerful missiles and nuclear weapons which are an important safeguard of peace and security are fortunately in the hands of the Soviet Union. Any aggressor - and the American militarists should not forget this - has to reckon with the fact that if he really dares to start aggression he will suffer a deserved devastating retaliatory blow.

Cuba is fully entitled to acquire and possess according to its consideration weapons to protect freedom and independence of the country. This is an inalienable right of any State wishing to defend its security and sovereignty. It is all the more true about the people of Cuba which since the victory of its revolution has had to counter day by day continuous threats and aggressive actions perpetrated by the United States.

No one can be convinced by the ridiculous allegations of the United States representatives that such a small country as Cuba and its peace-loving people could endanger the security of the United States. These allegations serve only as a hypocritical pretext for the imperialist circles of the USA to cover in front of the world public their aggressive actions against the Cuban people.

In its endeavour to settle all outstanding problems with the United States by peaceful means, the Revolutionary Government of Cuba has already several times urged the United States Government to normalize its relations with Cuba, to refrain from all attempts to reverse the present national and revolutionary development in the country and to stop intrigues directed against the independence of Cuba. However, all these proposals of the Government of Cuba have been rejected by the United States Government.

Faithful to the principles of its peaceful foreign policy, the Czechoslovak Government resolutely condemns in front of the whole world public this new aggressive action of the United States Government and expresses its full support to the just struggle of the heroic people and the Revolutionary Government of Cuba against the American imperialism.

The Czechoslovak people and its Government will meet fully and honestly their commitments towards the Republic of Cuba ensuing from the friendly relations with that country and from the obligations under the United Nations Charter.

The Government and the people of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic rightfully expect that the United States Government will realize in time the danger of playing with fire which is kindling and will revoke without delay all aggressive and provocative measures taken against the Republic of Cuba.

Being aware of the extraordinary gravity of the situation created as a result of the aggressive steps taken by the United States Government, against Cuba the Czechoslovak Government renders its unqualified support to the Declaration of the Government of the USSR of October 23 this year and to its request that the Security Council should discuss without delay "the violation of the United Nations Charter and the threat to peace by the United States of America". The Security Council which was entrusted the basic responsibility for the preservation of international peace and security must adopt resolute measures to stop the aggressor and to prevent arbitrary defiance of the United Nations Charter by American imperialism.

The Czechoslovak people, dedicated to its peaceful creative work in building its Socialist fatherland, will answer the insolent provocations of the imperialists by a still greater endeavour and unity in the interest of a further strengthening of the political, economic and defensive forces of the Republic.

Side by side with the Soviet Union and the other Socialist countries and all peace-loving nations, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic will on its part do everything to thwart the new imperialist aggression of the United States Government and to maintain and strengthen world peace.

October 23, 1962